Idaho Students Excel in NASA-funded Challenges

Idaho teams annually perform exceptionally well in a national Rover Observation And Drone Survey (ROADS) challenge sponsored by NASA's Northwest Earth and Space Sciences Pathways (NESSP) project. Completing hands-on objectives related to NASA missions, several Idaho teams have earned numerous honors. Two of the three national Top Teams in the 2022 Icy Worlds Challenge are from Idaho! Since NESSP's first challenge in 2019, the following teams' dedication to excellence launched them all the way to a NASA center:

NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston included a private tour and an unprecedented student stroll on a real launch pad!





2019 Jerome Middle School: JMS Drobotics (Dallin Hyatt, Nathan Lythgoe, Julio Meza, Hannah Smith, Isaac Steele) Mission Advisor: Denise Baugh

NASA Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral included a special presentation about growing plants on the ISS from Dr. Gioia Massa, a viewing of the space shuttle Atlantis and a Saturn V rocket, and the thrilling opportunity to watch the successful launch of a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket!



2020 (award delayed to 2022) Lewiston High School: New von Brauns (Janina Daep, Aiden Lillibridge, Jamie Teed, Noah Williams) Mission Advisor: Bill Lillibridge



2022 Barbara Morgan STEM Academy in Meridian: BMSA Explorers (Apollo, Jett, Koda, McKenzie, Ophelia, Sarah, Teegan) Mission Advisor: Lynnea Shafter



2022 West Minico Middle School in Paul: Europa's Warriors (Andrew Ashcraft, Clark Cundick, Nautika Dubose, Avery Haynes, Ayden Hunter, Wesley Meyers, Brody Williams) Mission Advisor: Brandi Milliron

In an effort to promote even more collaboration across teams, the current Artemis ROADS is shifting to badge-style awards. Teams that complete the mission objectives will be invited to demonstrate their skills at a culminating Challenge Day in Moscow or a new venue in southern Idaho to be determined. Middle school and older teams will be entered into an Idaho drawing for the all-expense-paid Summer 2023 trip to Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida! An alternate prize will be available for the younger teams.

STEM Access, a TRIO program at the University of Idaho in the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences, partners with NESSP to offer this opportunity in Idaho. **Find out more about NESSP and the ROADS challenges at https://nwessp.org/. Contact Susan Stauffer (sstauffer@uidaho.edu) with questions or to get on a mailing list for the 2023-24 ROADS challenge.**